

Signs of Success

Partners for Success

Why Parents Should Let Their Children GET DIRTY!

With high-tech gadgets and video games monopolizing children's days, it may be time to reintroduce your children to the world's first toy: dirt. Today's children need outlets for creative expression, physical activity and stress relief. Americans spend more than 90% of their lives inside.

Cal Ripken, Jr., who supports the newly launched America Needs Dirt initiative. "I believe that spirit of freedom and adventure helped me push myself to achieve more. I was not afraid to dive into home plate—literally and figuratively—in my adult life."

Encouraging even the youngest children to play, but more importantly, giving them the freedom to get really dirty, serves as an extra challenge for them to fully embrace the experi-

ence and they carry that gusto to other facets of their life such as work and relationships.

Here are some tips from Cal Ripken on how to help children develop active behaviors:

- Present choices. Let children choose or create their favorite outdoor activity. Not everyone is a star athlete, but they can all benefit from a friendly game of tag or setting up an obstacle course outside.
- Provide freedom. Allow "wild and free" activity in supervised places such as playgrounds and fields. Children can burn more calories and relieve more stress with this liberty.
- Create family fun. Let your children help you in the garden or take the whole family to the park on a weekend afternoon. Children love to get messy and by showing them dirt is good, they are free to fully embrace life's natural wonders and experiences, now and in the future.



"A stain-free life is a life half-lived"
Cal Ripken

For more information on the importance of playing hard and getting dirty and for more tips from Cal Ripken, Jr. visit www.AmericaNeedsDirt.com

A.S.D.C. National Conference Announced

The American Society for Deaf Children has announced their National Conference, Bridging the Rivers of Change. July 9–13, 2005 at the Western PA School for the Deaf in Pittsburgh, PA.

The conference will provide a time for families and professionals to share strategies, discover innovations and form partnerships and friendships to support deaf and hard of hearing children and to enable them to

reach their fullest potential. This conference will provide fun for every member of your family.

For more information call 1-800-624-3323 (v/tty) or www.wpsd.org

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Upcoming Events

June 10, 2004

Learn how Hearing Parents Raise their Deaf Children with the Support of the Deaf Community, a panel discussion with hearing parents of Deaf children.

Maryland School for the Deaf - Frederick Campus, Ely Building, Seminar Room. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

For more information or to register contact Partners for Success at (410) 480-4597 (v/tty) or CAD800@aol.com

WEBSITE

American Sign Language Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide

The first and only product that links thousands of signs to sentences that show how they change.
<http://ntidweb.rit.edu/dig/>

Partners for Success

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A Resource Center for
Families and Schools



World of Possibilities Disabilities Expos

June 25–27, 2004

Baltimore Convention Center

This premier consumer expo is free to the public. This event is dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers, as well as health care and education professionals.

Products and services to explore will include assistive and adaptive technology, medical equipment, computer software, mobility products, and living aids.

World of Possibilities will also offer informative workshops, demonstrations, and have representatives from local and statewide agencies who assist the disability community.

For more information or free tickets contact

Partners for Success at (410) 480-4597 (v/tty) or

Caring Communities at (866) 277-4644 or www.caringcommunities.org

Summer Literacy Camp

McDaniel College announces its Summer Literacy Camp, Heroes and You. The camp will study all kinds of heroes and the virtues of character education. Discover the heroic side of your child. The camp will focus on reading tools and build vocabulary skills. Unlock their creativity through writing and hands-on activities. Develop a deeper appreciation for both ASL and English. Kids, ages 6–12, are welcome to come to either session. Both sessions are free. Session 1 is June 28–July 2, Session 2 is July 19–July 23. For more information or to register contact Sandy Rae Scott at literacy-camp2004@yahoo.com



Ronda Jo Miller Basketball Camp

Camp Lakodia announces the Ronda Jo Miller Basketball Camp for 5th–12th graders. To be held at Dakota State University in Madison, SD. The program is open to all boys and girls, deaf, hard of hearing and CODAs. The dates are August 2–9th. The fee of \$250 includes lodging, meals, basketball clinic, activities and a t-shirt.

The Ronda Jo Miller Basketball camp is a great place for all young basketball players who are looking to develop their skills, work hard, and make new friends and have fun. The fundamentals of ball handling, shooting, passing, rebounding, defense, and mental attitude specific to winning basketball are emphasized. Registration deadline is July 1st. For more information contact Deb Skjeveland at dskjeveland@c-s-d.org or (800) 273-3323 (tty)

RESOURCES

- Financing Your Education–Options for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The updated version of this presentation is available for download at <http://www.netac.rit.edu> and click on “Financing your Education”
- Achieving Goals! Career stories of individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. To view profiles of these outstanding professionals, visit <http://www.netac.rit.edu/goals/> If you would like to borrow any of the videotapes in the Achieving Goals series, contact Florence Cooney at (410) 455-4369